

**WILLMAR COMMUNITY EDUCATION & RECREATION  
JOINT POWERS BOARD  
OCTOBER 28, 2016**

**Members Present:** Dave Baumgart, Bill Borth, Sally Calvin, Matt Dawson, Scott Guptill, Tim Johnson, Linda Mathiasen, Pablo Obregon, Rachel Skretvedt, Darin Strand

**Staff Present:** Rob Baumgarn, Ryan Harper, Tammy Rudningen, Becky Sorenson, Jena Tollefson and Sean Christensen, Public Works Director

**Guest:** Darlene Schroeder

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Darin Strand. He called upon Sean Christensen, Willmar Public Works Director.

**Rice Park Project:** Sean said we had received six bids for the Rice Park project. While all were competitive, the lowest bid was still \$50,000 above the budgeted amount. He and Steve had discussed what could be reduced or changed to come closer to the budget. One idea was to have Public Works staff do all the tree and/or shrub planting. Sean stated that any quantity reductions that were considered, would change the bids so the current low bidder would no longer be the low bidder. He doesn't recommend making and changes and requesting new bids. The preference would be to find an additional \$50,000.

Matt Dawson asked if there were any bidders that Sean was concerned about. Sean replied that, while he was not familiar with each bidder, he had heard nothing to concern him.

Linda Mathiasen asked where we could find the extra money. Sean said there might be funds available from other project. Linda also asked if the extra money would come from the City or Community Ed & Rec or the School. Sean replied that it would not be coming from the School. So far, all money is coming from CIP funds in the 2016 City budget.

Dave Baumgart asked if Public Works could do removals, i.e. shelter, wading pool. Sean Christensen replied that some things could be done by Public Works staff in addition to plantings.

Rachel Skretvedt asked about changing the shelter from enclosed to open, if that would make a difference in the final cost. Sean said that yes it would but making that change would change the scope of the bid so much it would need to be re-bid.

Matt Dawson made a motion that Sean Christensen explore with the City Attorney if anything can be changed in the project and, if not, we either re-bid the project or find the \$50,000. Dave Baumgart seconded and the motion carried.

**Local Option Sales Tax:** Steve, Darin and Rachel have been talking to service clubs regarding the sales tax proposal. Dave Baumgart said an email will be sent to Baseball Boosters regarding the sales tax. Pablo Obregon will talk to the Soccer Association. Thus far most of the reaction has been positive from these presentations with the most asked question being how to sunset it when the \$10 million has been collected.

**Facility Usage Policy:** The first item discussed was increasing the participant fee from \$5 to \$10 per person. The next request is to be allowed to use site supervisors for rentals to decrease cost to renters. Currently custodians are being utilized. Our proposal is to have custodians open and close and have site supervisors during the in between hours.

Dave Baumgart asked if the \$10 fee was per time. Ryan responded it was per organization.

Scott Guptill asked about liability issues if custodians were not on duty the whole time. Site supervisors would be covered.

Linda Mathiasen mentioned the added duties that custodians do while on duty such as mopping floors, checking restrooms, keeping people out of un-authorized areas. Site Supervisors will be trained in what duties they are expected to take care of while working.

Darin Strand asked for a motion to increase the participant fee to \$10 and to add site supervisors. Rachel Skretvedt made the motion, Pablo Obregon seconded. After some further discussion, motion carried.

**Regional Park Designation:** Darin Strand said the application has been sent in and reviewed. We have done everything that we need to do and are waiting for final approval.

**Robbins Island Destination Playground:** Rachel Skretvedt talked about upcoming fund raising events – car wash at Walt’s this Saturday. All proceeds go to the Robbins Island playground with a donation from Walt’s also. Another fund raiser is selling fence pickets which will be placed around the playground. The group is trying to raise a total of \$850,000.

Work needing to be done, preferably this fall, is drainage for the playground floor and some tree removal. Most of the trees to be removed are broken or diseased.

**Other:** Bill Borth asked about tennis courts. The park plan calls for eliminating the courts at Rice Park and rebuilding the Miller Park courts into a 4 court complex with pickle ball lines added.

Yellow Bike program – will re-analyze at the end of the year with partnering agencies.

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Glacial Lakes Trail – A question was asked if there can be a restroom and picnic area at the trail head. Rachel Skretvedt asked if Legacy Dollars could be applied for to improve the trailhead. Sean Christensen said he thought it could be but the DNR would have to be involved.

Tammy Rudningen announced some upcoming events. Michael Nelson will be presenting a concert at the Community Center on November 20. Tammy said he puts on a very good show and encouraged people to attend. We are also offering a bus trip to Brooten. The highlights of the trip will be a tour of Max Bats to see how baseball bats are made; a stop at the Bakery and also to the Red Head Creamery to find out how cheese is made.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned. Nothing was decided about the next meeting. Since our meeting date falls on the Friday after Thanksgiving, we may move the meeting to December 2.